

Serial No. 10/624,624

Claim 1 (previously presented): A ratcheting wrench comprising:

a handle having an end, the end of the handle having a compartment;

a head extending from the end of the handle and having a hole communicated with the compartment of the handle;

a drive member rotatably mounted in the hole of the head, the drive member formed as a unitary, unseparable component including a first end, a second end, an inner periphery and an outer periphery, with the inner and outer peripheries extending between the first and second ends, with the inner periphery adapted to securely, releasably hold a fastener-driving member, allowing joint rotation of the fastener-driving member and the drive member when the drive member is turned, the drive member further including a plurality of teeth on the outer periphery thereof;

a ratcheting mechanism mounted in the compartment of the handle and engaged with the teeth of the drive member;

an annular groove being defined in the inner periphery of the drive member;

a fastener retainer being received in the annular groove for releasably holding the fastener-driving member in place;

the drive member further including a stop at the first end of the inner periphery for preventing the fastener-driving member from disengaging from the drive member through the first end of the inner periphery of the drive member;

the drive member further including a flange integrally formed at one of the first and second ends of the outer periphery as a unitary, unseparable component and located outside the head for manual rotation of the drive member; and

a drive retainer removably retained on the outer periphery of the drive member, with the flange and the drive retainer preventing the drive member from falling out of the hole of the head.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stop is an inner flange integrally formed at the first end of the inner periphery of the drive member as a unitary, unseparable component.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stop is an annular groove ~~[[is]]~~ defined at the first end of the inner periphery of the drive member, a retainer being partially received in the annular groove for preventing the fastener-driving member from disengaging from the drive member through the first end of the inner periphery of the drive member.

Serial No. 10/624,624

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (previously presented): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flange has an embossed outer periphery for easy grasping.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flange abuts against an end face of the head.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flange protrudes in a radial direction of the head to a position beyond an end face of the head.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flange is integrally formed at the first end of the outer periphery, with an annular groove being defined in the second end of the outer periphery of the drive member, with the annular groove extending continuously around the entire outer periphery of the drive member and located outside of the head, and with the drive retainer being partially received in the annular groove of the drive member to thereby prevent the drive member from falling out of the hole of the head.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first or second end of the drive member opposite to the flange is flush with an end face of the head.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drive member has a shoulder on the outer periphery and located outside of the head, with the drive retainer being a ring fixedly mounted around said outer periphery of the drive member and abutting against the shoulder, the stop being located on the inner periphery of the drive member and distal to the flange.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 10, wherein the drive member has an annular groove in the outer periphery thereof, with the drive retainer further including a snap retainer being partially received in the annular groove of the drive member and abutting against the ring, thereby sandwiching the ring between the snap retainer and the shoulder.

Claim 12 (original): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 11, wherein the stop is an inner flange integrally formed on the end of the inner periphery of the drive member as a unitary, unseparable component.

Claim 13 (canceled).

Serial No. 10/624,624

Claim 14 (original): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratcheting mechanism allows the handle to selectively move in a ratcheting direction for tightening/loosening a fastener engaged with the fastener-driving member and in a free turning direction reverse to the ratcheting direction in which the fastener engaged with the fastener-driving member is not turned.

Claim 15 (original): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 14, wherein the end of the handle has an opening defined in a side thereof and communicated with the compartment of the handle, the ratcheting mechanism including a pawl slidably mounted in the compartment of the handle and a switch member rotatably mounted in the compartment of the handle and operably connected to the pawl such that rotation of the switch member causes sliding movement of the pawl in the compartment between two positions, the switch member having a turn piece extending to a position outside the handle via the opening of the handle, allowing manual rotation of the switch member to thereby move the pawl between the two positions for changing the ratcheting direction of the handle.

Claim 16 (original): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 15, wherein the pawl includes a first, toothed side for engaging with the teeth of the drive member, the pawl further including a second side having a recessed portion, the recessed portion having two inclined faces that are spaced apart by an intermediate section therebetween, the pawl further including two abutting faces for selectively abutting against a wall delimiting the compartment of the handle when the drive member is turned in the ratcheting direction.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 16, wherein the switch member includes a cylindrical body with the turn piece extending outward from an end of the cylindrical body, a receptacle being defined in the cylindrical body, an elastic element and a pressing member being received in the receptacle of the cylindrical body, the pressing member being biased by the elastic element to selectively press against one of the inclined faces of the pawl.

Claim 18 (original): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 17, wherein the cylindrical body further includes two engaging portions one of which presses against an associated one of the inclined faces of the pawl to thereby provide a more reliable support for the pawl when the drive member is turned in the ratcheting direction.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 1, wherein the head has an annular groove in an inner periphery delimiting the hole, the drive member having an annular groove defined in the outer periphery thereof, with the drive retainer being

Serial No. 10/624,624

partially received in the annular groove of the head and partially received in the annular groove of the drive member, thereby rotatably holding the drive member in the hole of the head.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A ratcheting wrench comprising:

a handle having an end, the end of the handle having a compartment;

a head extending from the end of the handle and having a hole communicated with the compartment of the handle;

a fastener-driving member adapted to drive a fastener;

a drive member rotatably mounted in the hole of the head, the drive member formed as a unitary, unseparable component including a first end, a second end, an inner periphery and an outer periphery, with the inner and outer peripheries extending between the first and second ends, with the inner periphery securely, releasably holding the fastener-driving member, allowing joint rotation of the fastener-driving member and the drive member when the drive member is turned, the drive member further including a flange integrally formed at one of the first and second ends of the outer periphery thereof and located outside the head for manual rotation of the drive member, the drive member further including a plurality of teeth on the outer periphery thereof;

a ratcheting mechanism mounted in the compartment of the handle and engaged with the teeth of the drive member;

an annular groove being defined in the inner periphery of the drive member;

a fastener retainer being received in the annular groove for releasably holding the fastener-driving member in place;

the drive member including a stop at the first end of the inner periphery for preventing the fastener-driving member from disengaging from the drive member through the first end of the inner periphery of the drive member; and

a drive retainer removably retained on the outer periphery of the drive member, with the flange and the drive retainer preventing the drive member from falling out of the hole of the head.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 20, wherein the drive member has a shoulder on the outer periphery and located outside of the head, with the drive retainer being a ring fixedly mounted around said outer periphery of the drive member and abutting against the shoulder, the stop being located on the inner periphery of the drive member and distal to the flange.